

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliiottii - Myrica cerifera Forest

COMMON NAME Sweetgum - (Water Oak, Willow Oak) - Loblolly Pine / Mayberry - Wax-myrtle Forest

SYNONYM

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Forest (I.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Deciduous forest (I.B.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)

FORMATION Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a.)

ALLIANCE *Quercus nigra* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 1

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliiottii - Myrica cerifera Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global distribution needs assessment but likely includes the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Virginia to Georgia.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This forest type occurs in northern, upland portions of the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliiottii - Myrica cerifera Forest has been newly described based on data from the Congaree Swamp National Monument. Global environmental conditions await description but likely are similar to those described below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Liquidambar styraciflua - Quercus (nigra, phellos) - Pinus taeda / Vaccinium elliiottii - Myrica cerifera Forest occurs on loamy sands and sandy loams on mesic slopes.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

The globally abundant species are currently the same as the park-specific species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

| <u>Stratum</u> | <u>Species</u> |
|----------------|---|
| Tree canopy | <i>Pinus taeda, Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus nigra, Quercus phellos</i> |
| Tree subcanopy | <i>Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus nigra, Acer rubrum</i> |
| Shrub | <i>Vaccinium elliiottii, Myrica cerifera</i> |

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DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

The globally diagnostic species are currently the same as the park-specific diagnostic species listed below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

Pinus taeda, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus phellos*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus nigra*, *Acer rubrum*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Myrica cerifera*, *Mitchella repens*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

The globally description currently is the same as the park-specific description below.

Congaree Swamp National Monument

This community type occurs on the Congaree Swamp National Monument in two phases: one with an emergent canopy of large *Pinus taeda* trees, and the other without the emergent canopy. Coverage by *Pinus taeda* in the *Pinus taeda* phase ranges from ten to greater than sixty percent.

The closed canopy is codominated by *Liquidambar styraciflua* with *Quercus* spp., especially *Quercus nigra* and *Quercus phellos*, and in one example by *Quercus pagoda*. *Nyssa sylvatica* is also typical in this stratum. The moderately well-developed subcanopy is dominated by canopy species with *Ilex decidua* var. *longipes*, *Sassafras albidum*, *Acer rubrum*, *Cornus florida*, *Prunus serotina*, *Vaccinium arboreum*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, and likely other species. The shrub stratum is often sparse and is primarily composed of canopy and subcanopy species. Occasionally a rather dense cover of *Myrica cerifera* may be present. Other species that may occur include *Euonymus americana*, *Rubus* sp., *Callicarpa americana*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Gaylussacia frondosa*, and *Gaylussacia dumosa*. The herbaceous layer ranges from moderate to fairly dense. Typical species include *Chasmanthium laxum* var. *sessiliflorum*, *Scleria triglomerata*, *Carex abscondita*, *Panicum boscii*, *Mitchella repens*, *Juncus coriaceous*, *Chimaphila maculata*, *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Malaxis uniflora*, and others. The vine/liana stratum is sparse to moderate, and species present include *Bignonia capreolata*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, *Smilax bona-nox*, *Smilax rotundifolia*, *Wisteria frutescens*, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, and others.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

The exotic *Lonicera japonica* is common in occurrences of this community.

CONSERVATION RANK GM

RANK JUSTIFICATION

This community contains a mixture of upland and lowland species that typically occur together in uplands following cessation of agriculture.

DATABASE CODE CEGL007726

COMMENTS

REFERENCES